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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Cheung, et al	§	Attorney Docket No.:	MGER.79172/03
Application No.:	09/936,682	§		
Filed:	September 17, 2001	§	Examiner:	L. McCartney
For:	<i>"System and Method for Analyzing and Imaging Three-Dimensional Volume Data Sets"</i>	§	Art Unit:	2671
		§		
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		§		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Interview Summary

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to MPEP § 713.04, Applicants submit the following summary of the interview with the Examiner initiated on January 22, 2004:

Brief Description of the Nature of any Exhibit Shown or any Demonstration Conducted:

None.

Identification of the Claims Discussed:

Independent Claims 1, 12, 23 and 34 were discussed.

Identification of Specific Prior Art Discussed:

- Yanof, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,734,384, issued March 31, 1998;
- Cline, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,984,157, issued January 8, 1991;

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- International Publication No. WO 00/14574 published 16 March 2000; and
- *Oil & Gas Journal* article entitled, "Texaco E&P Center Allows Visual Probe of 3D Data Volumes," June 1, 1998, OGJ Special, p.47.

Identification of the Principle Proposed Amendments of a Substantive Nature Discussed:

None.

The General Thrust of the Principal Arguments of Applicants and the Examiner:

During the interview, Applicants' representative questioned the Examiner's basis for rejecting independent claims 1 and 12. Applicants' representative further presented arguments that there is no motivation for combining *Oil and Gas Journal* with *Yanof* and/or *Cline*. Examiner McCartney reiterated his position and arguments.

Applicants' representative further suggested that the WO 00/14574 reference did not disclose "interpolating between said first spline curve and said second spline curve to define a three-dimensional surface" Examiner McCartney referred to Fig. 4 of this reference and the section entitled "Interactive Well Planning" to argue that the limitation is disclosed. Examiner Zimmerman suggested that Applicants file a written response.

General Indication Of Any Other Pertinent Matters Discussed:

The Examiner confirmed that he would mark the claims submitted with the September 15, 2003 Response and Amendment "Do Not Enter," as required, and would

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confirm that the references cited in the Second Supplemental IDS filed on May 9, 2002 and September 15, 2003 were considered.

General Results or Outcome of the Interview:

See above.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 28, 2004


William P. Jensen
Reg. No. 36,833

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
600 Travis, Suite 1600
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 227-8008
(713) 227-9508 (fax)
wjensen@shb.com

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the attention of Examiner L. McCartney at fax number (703) 872-9306 on January 28, 2004.

1-28-04
Date


Signature